

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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EB/ITP/EWT:JRTARTTER

S/S- MR. ORTIZ

----- 043079

O R 012010Z AUG 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

CHIEF OF STAFF ARMY

JCS

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 182142 TOSEC 080261

EXDIS , MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, MASS, RO

SUBJECT: US-ROMANIAN MILITARY CONTACTS

REF: A) ANDREWS/AKALOVSKY JULY 30 TELECON WITH DUNLOP

B) BUCHAREST 3675

C) BUCHAREST DAO 301536Z

D) BUCHAREST USDAO 301638Z

FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 182142 TOSEC 080261

1. AS REFTELS B, C AND D INDICATE, ROMANIAN INTEREST IN
OBTAINING SOPHISTICATED US MILITARY EQUIPMENT REMAINS VERY
MUCH ALIVE. AT SOME POINT DURING PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT
TO ROMANIA THEY MAY WELL RAISE THE SUBJECT, POSSIBLY IN

THE CONTEXT OF REFERENCE TO GENERAL WEYAND'S SCHEDULED
SEPT. 1-6 VISIT TO ROMANIA.

2. STATE AND DOD HAVE REVIEWED THIS ROMANIAN INITIATIVE
IN CONNECTION WITH THE WEYAND VISIT AND HAVE CONCLUDED
THAT WE SHOULD BE WARY OF ENCOURAGING ANY ROMANIAN
EXPECTATIONS CONCERNING OUR READINESS TO DEVELOP A
MILITARY RELATIONSHIP MUCH BEYOND THAT WHICH IS NOW
EVOLVING SATISFACTORILY, I.E., EXCHANGES OF PROTOCOL
VISITS AT VARIOUS LEVELS AS A VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF

OUR FRIENDLY SUPPORT FOR ROMANIA'S INDEPENDENT STANCE
WITHIN THE WARSAW PACT. SPECIFICALLY, THE UNITED STATES
SHOULD BE VERY CIRCUMSPECT REGARDING THE EXPRESSED
ROMANIAN INTEREST IN THE POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF
RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED US COMBAT MILITARY EQUIPMENT.
WE VIEW GENERAL WEYAND'S VISIT AS PRIMARILY A PROTOCOL
VISIT ONLY, AS WAS ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES' CHIEF OF STAFF
GENERAL COMAN'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES LAST SPRING.

3. WE ARE CURIOUS ABOUT HOW THE ROMANIANS REALLY VIEW
SUCH A DEVELOPMENT IN OUR RELATIONS AND WOULD LIKE TO
KNOW HOW THEY WOULD ASSESS PROBABLE SOVIET REACTION TO
IT. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY OF BOTH OUR
AND ROMANIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND THE
SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR COCOM STRATEGIC CONTROLS ON
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES GENERALLY, AS WELL AS THE PROCEDURAL
AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WE WOULD FACE IN
SEEKING TO PROVIDE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO A WARSAW PACT
MEMBER, BOTH STATE AND DEFENSE AGREE WE SHOULD CONTINUE
TO RESPOND POLITELY BUT NONCOMMITTALLY TO PROPOSALS FOR
BILATERAL MILITARY "COOPERATION" AND PARTICULARLY TO
THOSE WHICH WOULD INVOLVE PROVISION OF SOPHISTICATED
US HARDWARE. INGERSOLL

SECRET

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